Annual REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Urban District of Soothill Upper,

FOR THE YEAR

1908.

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FOR THE YEAR 1908.

To the Sanitary Committee of the Soothill Upper Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting my FOURTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT on the Health, Sanitation and Progress of the District.

The area of the District is 1,897 acres, and the population at the last Census, was 6,104, but now, estimated on the basis of the number of inhabited houses in the middle of the year at 7,330.

Number of inhabited houses.			Population.		
1891	1901	1908	1891	1901	1908
1233	1329	1685	5848	6104	7330

Increase since last Census in the number of inhabited houses ...	... 356
Increase in the population ...	... 1,226
Average to each house ...	... 4·35

The births for the year amounted to 188, 95 boys and 93 girls, giving a birth-rate of 25·6 per 1,000, against 23·5 for the preceding year, the average for the past ten years being 24·9. Six of the births were illegitimate, against 5 last year.

The deaths for the year amounted to 88, 44 males, and 44 females; but to these are to be added 5 males and 3 females which took place in Institutions outside the area, viz :—Dewsbury Workhouse 4, Batley Hospital 2, and Wakefield Asylum 2, so that

the corrected deaths are 96, 49 males and 47 females, giving a death-rate of 13·0 per 1,000, against 11·33 last year, the average for the past ten years being 14.9.

AGES AT DEATH.

Under 1 year	22
1 year and under 5	9
5 ,, ,, 15	3
15 ,, ,, 25	3
25 ,, ,, 65	34
65 ,, upwards	25
	96

The above Table shows that while 31 died under five years, 22 died under one year, which is equal to 129 per 1,000 of the children born, against 88 last year, and an average of 136 for the past ten years. This Table also shows that the healthy period is between 5 and 25 years, when only 6 died; that while 37 died below 25 years, 59 died over, and the ages of 13 ranged from 70 to 85 years.

CAUSES OF DEATH UNDER ONE YEAR.

Measles	1
Whooping Cough	3
Epidemic Influenza	2
Diarrhœa	3
Bronchitis	5
Premature Birth	1
Debility from Birth	3
Convulsions	3
Spina Bifida	1
	22

The ages of these infants were as follows :—

Under 1 month	6
1 month and under 3 months	1
3 ,, ,, 6 ,, ...	7
6 ,, ,, 9 ,, ...	3
9 ,, ,, 12 ,, ...	5
	22

Six died within the month mostly from debility or premature birth. The next largest item was bronchitis; and of the six illegitimates, two died.

CAUSES OF DEATH AT ALL AGES.

Measles	1
Scarlet Fever	1
Whooping Cough	4
Diphtheria	1
Epidemic Influenza	3
Diarrhœa	4
Phthisis	6
Other Tubercular Diseases	2
Cancer, Malignant Disease	5
Bronchitis	14
Pneumonia	5
Pleurisy	1
Alcoholism	1
Premature Birth	1
Heart Diseases	11
Accidents	5
Suicide	1
Senile Decay	7
Debility	3
Convulsions	3
Cerebral Hemorrhage	7
Bright's Disease	4
All other causes	6
	96

The deaths from zymotic diseases are included under measles, scarlet fever, whooping cough, diphtheria, epidemic influenza and diarrhœa. They number 14 in all, and are equal to a rate of 1·9 per 1,000, against ·41 last year, and an average of 2·1 for the past ten years. Phthisis death rate ·81 against 1·2, 1·0 and 1·18 for the three preceding years. Respiratory diseases 2·7 against 1·2, 1·5 and 3·1 in the three preceding years.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1908.

1908	England and Wales.	Great towns (76)	Smaller towns (142)	England and Wales less the 218 towns.	Soothill Upper.
Birth-rate ...	26·5	27·0	26·0	26·2	25·6
Death-rate ...	14·7	14·9	14·0	14·7	13·0
Zymotic death-rate	1·29	1·59	1·26	0·99	1·9
Infantile mortality (per 1000 births) ..	121	128	124	110	129

LOCALITIES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

District.	Scarlet Fever	Enteric Fever	Erysipelas	Diphtheria	Total
Brewery Road	1	1		1	3
Bromley Street	4				4
Bridle Street	1				1
Broom Street		1			1
Common Side			1	1	2
Clutton Street				1	1
Gregory Street			1		1
Grace Leather Lane				1	1
High Street			1	2	3
Leeds Road	1		1	3	5
Lady Ann Road			1		1
Mill Lane				1	1
Oaks Road		1		3	4
Quarry Street	1				1
Royd Street		1			1
Rouse Mill				1	1
Soothill Lane	4				4
School Lane		1			1
Shaw Cross	2				2
Willow Terrace	1		1	1	3
Total	15	5	6	15	41

Infectious diseases were reported in the following months :—

1908	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	Enteric	Measles	Whooping Cough	Influenza
January	2	1	6	1			
February	1		3				
March	1		1	1			
April				1			
May	4	2	1	1			
June		2					
July	2						
August	3						
September		1	2				
October			1				
November	1			1			
December	1		1				
TOTAL	15	6	15	5			

During the year 41 cases of infectious diseases have been reported, against 33, 30, 117 and 94 in the four preceding years. There was not an epidemic at any time, and they were mostly isolated cases spread over the district. The following gives the number reported and the deaths :—

Scarlet Fever	15 cases	with 1 death.
Diphtheria	15 ,,	,, 1 ,,
Enteric	5 ,,	,, 0 ,,
Eyrsipelas	6 ,,	,, 0 ,,
Measles	not reported	,, 1 ,,
Whooping Cough	not reported	,, 4 ,,
Epidemic Influenza	not reported	,, 3 ,,
Diarrhœa	not reported	,, 4 ,,

There was no case of small-pox during the year, and owing to the facility with which exemptions are obtained, and that the others are not pressed, a large proportion must remain unvaccinated. Those who console themselves with exemptions seem to forget that these do not exempt them from small-pox.

Scarlet fever was scattered all over the district and in eight of the twelve months of the year.

Diarrhœa and enteric were not numerous and there was not a death from the latter, and in three of the four cases from diarrhœa, death occurred in infant's under one year.

Measles was prevalent in January, February, April, May and August, but at no time was it epidemic and necessary to close any of the schools, although the Education Committee on their own responsibility extended the closure of Gregory Street for a week.

Diphtheria was scattered over the district and in eight months of the year, with one death.

Whooping Cough was prevalent in February, April and May, and of the four deaths, three were in infants under one year.

In February and March, we had a sharp attack of Influenza and of the three deaths, two were in infants under one year.

Seventeen nuisances were abated during the year, two notices were served, and two nuisances in hand at the close of the year. 154 yards, 9'' sewers, with their corresponding surface drains have been laid and the Heybeck section has advanced a stage since my last report. In 11 cases private drains have been connected to the sewers. The ash-pits have been well attended to, having been emptied about ten times during the year.

Factory and Workshop Act.

There are 28 factories and 38 workshops in the district. These have been found in a sanitary condition and ample conveniences have been provided, in the proportion of 1 to 25. Where males and females are employed, privacy is maintained by isolation or by approach from opposite sides. Notice was served in one case where the hands had grown. This was remedied and ample provision made. In the workshops is included one bake-house.

There are no domestic workshops, and no home work is given out.

Forty-three houses have been built during the year. They are through houses with a scullery, w.c. and bath, 63 water closets have been erected and only three privies have been sanctioned in

houses far removed from a main sewer. There is no overcrowding and no houses unfit for human habitation.

The Joint Hospital was made use of in only three cases of diphtheria. This is not what was expected—that many persons would take advantage of the isolation and professional nursing. No doubt had an epidemic occurred many more cases would have found their way there, but being isolated cases they were easily kept under. In a case of erysipelas there was an application for admission, but only three diseases are admitted, viz : scarlet fever, diphtheria and enteric.

The water supply has been good and continous, and there has been an extension of the mains to two farms in Heybeck. No case of lead poisoning has been brought under my notice, nor has there been any case of ptomaine or arsenical poisoning.

The slaughter-houses have been fairly kept and are well looked after as to cleanliness and white washing.

Dairies, Milkshops, Cowsheds.

There are no dairies in this district, nor milkshops. The milk is produced at the farms, carted away and distributed to the surrounding towns and villages.

There are 60 cowsheds in the district, which are fairly kept as to cleanliness and white washing, but the air is not maintained in that purity that I should like to see. In some cases the air space is not sufficient, but in others the ventilation is defective either in the inlet or the outlet, and no space can long remain pure if the ventilation is neglected. "Rules for Milkers," are to be seen in the cowsheds and more care is taken than formerly in the way of cleanliness.

Phthisis death-rate has been rather lower this year, as well as the other tubercular diseases. Every care is taken to lessen the ravages of this complaint. After death I receive a notice from the Registrar, and the Sanitary Inspector proceeds to disinfect the room and the clothing as soon as it is convenient to the family. I trust that the new houses—the through houses—will be better for this complaint, as opposed to the back-to-back system, into some of which the sun never enters.

Infantile Mortality.

In my last report I said, "Infantile Mortality is still to the front. I am so strong a believer in heredity that I would say, instead of looking after the children so much 'take care of the parents—father and mother, and the children will take care of themselves.' The fad and fashion of Town Matrons will last for a time, but we have seen that the majority of the infants are so weak that they die within the first month, and an army of Matrons would not keep them alive." For this I was branded as a sceptic because I was supposed not to see the benefits that would accrue. I have been a health visitor for many years and I must confess I have never been able to make any impression on the babies indicated above. I have no fault to find with the Town Matrons, on the contrary I think they carry out their duties in an earnest and most satisfactory manner. I am told that they even act as night policemen to see which of their patients go to the Hippodrome, and whether to the first or the second house.

Some people thought last year that they made a mark by great reduction, but the rate was low nearly everywhere. This year the birth-rate has been a little higher, the death-rate is also higher, and the infant death-rate has also gone up. As the reports come out we find the towns that have health visitors are no better off than those that have none.

I have been asked what remedy I have to propose. Well, I would propose an Act of Parliament. Babies are born under an Act of Parliament—their birth has to be reported within 36 hours; they are overlooked by an Act of Parliament—carried out by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children; they go to school by Act of Parliament, and they leave school by Act of Parliament, and I suppose some day we shall have an Act of Parliament when they shall have their milk-sops. I should propose a short Bill prohibiting any person from getting married without a certificate of health; that this certificate should not be granted by local doctors but by persons appointed by the Government, to be paid by them, and not out of the local rates; and that these officers should sit so many times a week and oftener before the holidays.

If this idea were carried out we should soon have less infantile mortality, and we should have less of that cant about depraved motherhood.

I will now close my report with the usual summary birth-rate 25·6, death-rate 13·0; zymotic death-rate 1·9 and infantile mortality 129.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ROBERT BEATTIE, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Dewsbury,

14th April, 1909.

TABLE 1.

SOOTHILL UPPER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

FOR THE WHOLE DISTRICT.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each year.	Births.		Deaths under One Year of Age.		Deaths at all Ages. Total.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*
1898	6327	157	24·8	21	133	113	17·8
1899	6408	158	24·6	16	101	80	12·4
1900	6489	166	25·8	18	108	95	14·7
1901	6103	159	26	25	157	98	16·0
1902	6336	166	26·2	23	137	88	13·8
1903	6542	170	25·9	19	112	97	14·8
1904	6647	167	25·1	31	185	121	18·2
1905	6766	151	22·3	30	199	102	15
1906	6976	175	25·0	26	148	110	15·7
1907	7235	170	23·5	15	88	82	11·3
Averages for years 1898-1907	6582	164	24·92	22	136	98	14·9
1908	7330	188	25·6	22	129	96	13·0

*Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population. Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)—1897.

Total population at all ages 6,104
Number of inhabited houses ... ... 1,329 } At Census of 1901.
Average number of persons per house ... ... 4·385

TABLE 2.

SOOTHILL UPPER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 Year.
1898 ...	6327	157	113	21
1899 ...	6408	158	80	16
1900 ...	6489	166	95	18
1901 ...	6103	159	98	25
1902 .	6336	166	88	23
1903 ...	6542	170	97	19
1904 ...	6647	167	121	31
1905 ...	6766	151	102	30
1906 ...	6976	175	110	26
1907 ...	7235	170	82	15
Averages of Years 1898 to 1907	6582	164	98	22
1909 ...	7330	188	96	22

TABLE 3.

SOOTHILL UPPER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the Year 1908.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in whole District.							Total cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards	
Small-pox								
Cholera								
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	15		5	7	3			3
Erysipelas	6	1			1	3	1	
Scarlet Fever ...	15		4	6	3	2		
Typhus Fever ..								
Enteric Fever ...	5		1	2		2		
Relapsing Fever ...								
Continued Fever ..								
Puerperal Fever ...								
Plague								
Totals	41	1	10	15	7	7	1	3

Isolation Hospital—Dewsbury Conjoint Hospital.

Total available Beds, 72. Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated, 3.

TABLE 4.

Soothill Upper Urban District Council.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1908.

Causes of Death.	Death in whole district at subjoined Ages.							Total Deaths in Public Institutions in District.
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	
Small-pox								
Measles	1	1						
Scarlet Fever	1			1				
Whooping-cough	4	3	1					
Diphtheria and Memb. Croup	1		1					
Epidemic Influenza	3	2				1		
Diarrhœa	4	3	1					
Enteritis...								
Peurperal Fever								
Erysipelas								
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculous)	6					6		
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	2		2					
Cancer, Malignant Disease ...	5					2	3	
Bronchitis	14	5	1			3	5	
Pneumonia	5		2		1	2		
Pleurisy	1					1		
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs								
Alcoholism / Cirrhosis of Liver	1						1	
Premature Birth	1	1						
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition								
Heart Diseases	11			1	1	4	5	
Accidents	5		1		1	3		
Suicides	1					1		
Senile Decay	7						7	
Debility	3	3						
Convulsions	3	3						
Cerebral Hemorrhage	7					4	3	
Bright's Disease	4					3	1	
All other Causes	6	1			1	4		
All causes	96	22	9	3	3	34	25	

TABLE 5.

SOOTHILL UPPER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1908.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
Measles ...														1			1
Whooping Cough ...				1	1									1	1		3
Diarrhœa, all forms								1		1		1					3
Premature Birth ...		1			1												1
Congenital Effects...									1								1
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	1		1	1	3												3
Convulsions ...	1				1				1	1							3
Bronchitis							1				2			1		1	5
Epidemic Influenza								2									2
	2	1	1	2	6		1	3	2	2	2	1		3	1	1	22

Population (estimated to middle of 1908) 7,330.

Births in the year { Legitimate 182. Illegitimate 6.

Deaths in the year of { Legitimate infants, 20. Illegitimate infants, 2.

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 96, Rate, 13·0.

TABLE 6.

SOOTHILL UPPER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Summary of Work in the Sanitary Department for the Year ended December 31st, 1908.

Notices served for Abatement of Nuisances ...	2
Prosecutions	nil.
Nuisances abated	17
Nuisances in hand...	2
Length of Sewers laid	154 yds. 9in. Sewer. 154 yds. 9in. Surface Water Drain.
Private Drains connected to Sewers	11
New Houses erected	43
New Water Closets	63
New Privies	3
New Ashpits	27
Privies converted into W.C's.	8 d'm'lish'd
Privies reconstructed	nil.
Ashpits reconstructed	2
Defects in Water Pipes and Fittings and Notices served	27
Loads of Refuse removed from Ashpits ...	3566
Average No. of times each Ashpit emptied ...	9·77

JNO. BLACKBURN,

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

Shaw Cross,

Nr. Dewsbury,

29th March, 1909.